

CLAIMS

1 1. A portable phone comprising:
2 a position detector that detects geographical position of the portable phone; and
3 a processor coupled to the position detector that determines whether or not to ring
4 the portable phone based on the detected geographical position of the portable phone
5 when a call is received by the portable phone.

1 2. The portable phone of claim 1 wherein the position detector comprises a global
2 positioning system (GPS) detector.

1 3. The portable phone of claim 1 wherein the processor further determines
2 characteristics of a ring signal based on the detected geographical position of the portable
3 phone when the processor determines to ring the portable phone.

1 4. The portable phone of claim 3 wherein the characteristics of the ring signal
2 include volume, type and tone of the ring signal.

1 5. The portable phone of claim 4 wherein the type of the ring signal includes an
2 audible ring and a vibration ring.

1 6. The portable phone of claim 1 wherein the processor does not ring the portable
2 phone if the portable phone is in a predefined region.

1 7. The portable phone of claim 1 wherein the processor rings the portable phone
2 with increased volume if the portable phone is in a predefined region.

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1 8. The portable phone of claim 1 wherein the processor rings the portable phone
2 with a different ring tone if the portable phone is in a predefined region.

1 9. The portable phone of claim 1 further comprising a dial mechanism for selecting
2 stored text that corresponds to a desired telephone contact, such that when a user selects
3 the stored text, the dial mechanism dials a first stored telephone number when the
4 portable phone is in a first defined region and dials a second stored telephone number
5 when the portable phone is in a second defined region.

1 10. The portable phone of claim 1 further comprising a dial mechanism for selecting
2 stored text that corresponds to a desired telephone contact, such that when a user selects
3 the stored text, the dial mechanism dials a first stored telephone number and
4 communicates the detected geographical position of the portable phone with the call to
5 the first stored telephone number.

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1 11. A portable phone comprising:
2 a position detector that detects geographical position of the portable phone; and
3 a dial mechanism coupled to the position detector for selecting stored text that
4 corresponds to a desired telephone contact, such that when a user selects the stored text,
5 the dial mechanism dials a first stored telephone number when the portable phone is in a
6 first defined region and dials a second stored telephone number when the portable phone
7 is in a second defined region.

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1 12. A portable phone comprising:
2 a position detector that detects geographical position of the portable phone; and
3 a dial mechanism coupled to the position detector for selecting stored text that
4 corresponds to a desired telephone contact, such that when a user selects the stored text,
5 the dial mechanism dials a first stored telephone number and communicates the detected
6 geographical position of the portable phone with the call to the first stored telephone
7 number.

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13. A telephone system comprising:
1 a portable phone that includes a position detector that detects geographical
2 position of the portable phone;
3 a defined geographical region that is assigned a telephone number;
4 a processor coupled to the portable phone that determines from the position
5 detector the geographical position of the portable phone, and that rings the portable phone
6 when the assigned telephone number of the defined region is called if the portable phone
7 is within the defined geographical region.

14. The telephone system of claim 13 wherein the position detector comprises a
2 global positioning system (GPS) detector.

15. The telephone system of claim 13 wherein the processor does not ring the portable
2 phone when the assigned telephone number of the defined region is called and the
3 portable phone is outside the defined geographical region.

16. The telephone system of claim 13 wherein the processor delivers a voice message
2 when the assigned telephone number of the defined region is called and the portable
3 phone is outside the defined geographical region.

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1 17. A method for controlling the operation of a portable phone, the method
2 comprising the steps of:
3 (A) providing a position detector with the portable phone that detects geographical
4 position of the portable phone;
5 (B) detecting the geographical position of the portable phone using the position
6 detector;
7 (C) determining whether or not to ring the portable phone based on the detected
8 geographical position of the portable phone when a call is received by the portable phone.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the position detector comprises a global
2 positioning system (GPS) detector.

1 19. The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of determining characteristics
2 of a ring signal based on the detected geographical position of the portable phone when
3 step (C) determines to ring the portable phone.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the characteristics of the ring signal include
2 volume, type and tone of the ring signal.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the type of the ring signal includes an audible
2 ring and a vibration ring.

1 22. The method of claim 17 wherein step (C) does not ring the portable phone if the
2 portable phone is in a predefined geographical region.

1 23. The method of claim 17 wherein step (C) rings the portable phone with increased
2 volume if the portable phone is in a predefined geographical region.

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1 24. The method of claim 17 wherein step (C) rings the portable phone with a different
2 ring tone if the portable phone is in a predefined geographical region.

1 25. The method of claim 17 further comprising the steps of:
2 selecting stored text that corresponds to a desired telephone contact;
3 dialing a first stored telephone number corresponding to the desired telephone
4 contact when the portable phone is in a first defined region; and
5 dialing a second stored telephone number corresponding to the desired telephone
6 contact when the portable phone is in a second defined region.

1 26. The method of claim 17 further comprising the steps of:
2 selecting stored text that corresponds to a desired telephone contact;
3 dialing a first stored telephone number that corresponds to the desired telephone
4 contact; and
5 communicating the detected geographical position of the portable phone with the
6 call to the first stored telephone number.

1 27. The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of routing the call using the
2 communicated geographical position of the portable phone to a second telephone that is
3 the closest of a predefined group of telephones in physical proximity to the portable
4 phone.

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1 28. A method for making a call on a portable phone, the method comprising the steps
2 of:
3 providing a position detector with the portable phone that detects geographical
4 position of the portable phone;
5 detecting the geographical position of the portable phone using the position
6 detector;
7 selecting stored text that corresponds to a desired telephone contact;
8 dialing a first stored telephone number corresponding to the desired telephone
9 contact when the portable phone is in a first defined region; and
10 dialing a second stored telephone number corresponding to the desired telephone
11 contact when the portable phone is in a second defined region.

1 29 A method for making a call on a portable phone, the method comprising the steps
2 of:
3 providing a position detector with the portable phone that detects geographical
4 position of the portable phone;
5 detecting the geographical position of the portable phone using the position
6 detector;
7 selecting stored text that corresponds to a desired telephone contact;
8 dialing a first stored telephone number that corresponds to the desired telephone
9 contact; and
10 communicating the detected geographical position of the portable phone with the
11 call to the first stored telephone number.

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1 30. A method for making a call on a portable phone, the method comprising the steps
2 of:
3 providing a position detector with the portable phone that detects geographical
4 position of the portable phone;
5 detecting the geographical position of the portable phone using the position
6 detector;
7 assigning a telephone number to a defined geographical region;
8 ringing the portable phone when the assigned telephone number of the defined
9 region is called if the portable phone is within the defined geographical region.

1 31. The telephone system of claim 30 wherein the position detector comprises a
2 global positioning system (GPS) detector.

1 32. The telephone system of claim 30 further comprising the step of not ringing the
2 portable phone when the assigned telephone number of the defined region is called and
3 the portable phone is outside the defined geographical region.

1 33. The telephone system of claim 30 further comprising the step of delivering a voice
2 message when the assigned telephone number of the defined region is called and the
3 portable phone is outside the defined geographical region.
